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Congress of the United States  
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ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON  
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COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES

WESTERN CAUCUS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 29, 2007

The Honorable R. James Nicholson  
Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I understand that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) plans to establish several additional Veterans Centers throughout the United States in the coming year.

My purpose in writing is to ask for your support for the establishment of a Veterans Center for the Northern Utah area, which would provide essential outreach to an estimated 40,000 veterans in the Ogden area and surrounding counties. At present, these veterans must travel longer distances to access existing VA resources in Salt Lake City or Provo.

Establishment of a Veterans Center in the Ogden City area would seem to go a long way towards addressing the growing disparity along Utah's populated Wasatch Front with regard to availability of VA resources for veterans. For example, the Provo Veterans Center, which was established in the 1980's, services approximately 18,000 veterans. The 40,000 veterans in the Ogden-Northern Utah are currently without their own center and must travel to Salt Lake City to access the same VA resources. Provo and Ogden are each approximately the same distance from Salt Lake City.

Thank you for taking this request into serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress